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Correspondence Between French and German Peace Workers.

Dr. Adolf Richter, president of the German Peace Society, and Pastor Otto Umfrid, vice-president, sent the following letter to Frederic Passy, president of the French Arbitration Society, at the time when solicitude was greatest in regard to the Algeciras Conference :

PFORZHEIM AND STUGGART, 11 February, 1906.

Highly Honored Sir : In view of the political tension now existing between our two countries, we believe that it is our duty to contribute, to the extent of our ability, to the enlightenment and reassurance of the public.

We address you, as dean of the international peace movement, in the hope that your voice will be heard even in times of the greatest excitement, because of the great influence which you exercise over the opinion of your fellow-countrymen. We shall be grateful if you will kindly bring to the knowledge of the French press, as far as it is accessible to you, the following considerations :

1. The German people do not desire war and have not the least thought of attacking France.

2. We are persuaded that the government of Germany is loyally seeking to find a way of reconciliation with France, and that it would be happy to see the existing difficulties allayed.

3. It is most desirable that the points which cannot be settled diplomatically at the Algeciras Conference be submitted to the Tribunal of Arbitration at The Hague. If this course should be judged to be inadmissible, it would be the duty of the representatives of the nations in this Conference — so long as they do not recognize over them the authority of an independent judge — to prepare the way by mutual concessions for a pacific agreement, and, in any event, to refrain from all menacing utterances.

4. But even if an agreement should not be reached at Algeciras, and the Conference should end in failure, that would not mean that war must follow. The definite official declarations of German diplomacy are proof of this. Germany would not attack France, and we admit that if the Algeciras Conference should close without result, the former state of affairs would continue, and the stipulations of the Conference of Madrid, of 1880, would remain in force.

5. There would be no danger to international peace unless France should make an attempt on the sovereignty and integrity of the Maghzen and should enlarge its African colonial empire by the addition of the large territory of Morocco.

6. German diplomacy is, furthermore, not unaware of the exceptional position of France as the nearest neighbor of Morocco. So far as we are able to learn, it is ready to concede to the French special rights in the matter of the frontier police and the measures to be taken to prevent the Moroccan troubles from being carried into the territory of Algeria.

It seems to us that these important concessions ought to be sufficient, and that the situation ought not to be aggravated by the demand for still greater concessions. In this latter category would fall the demand of France

that a European mandate should be given her for the entire control of the police service in Morocco. Such a measure, all will agree, would menace the integrity of Morocco, and the equilibrium of Europe would feel the effect of it.

7. In whatever manner the present differences shall be settled, one thing ought to be evident even at the present moment : that is, that a diplomatic check suffered by one of the parties to the case could not be considered by it as dishonorable. It is not a dishonor to yield, but it would be a dishonor for the most cultivated nations of Europe to plunge into a murderous war over such a country as Morocco.

May good sense have the upper hand and this dishonor be spared us.

Accept, etc. (Signed) DR. RICHTER, President
of the German Peace Society.
O. UMFRID, Vice-President.

The following letter was addressed by Frederic Passy to Professor Quidde at Munich one day later than the one given above :

NEUILLY, 12 February, 1906.

Dear Sir and Colleague : In a few days, on the 22d of February, a date henceforth consecrated, the peace societies of the world will once more unitedly make an appeal to the wisdom of the various governments and peoples. Their wishes, like so many wireless messages from minds and hearts, will cross each other in space ; and our thoughts, I am certain, will meet, as our hands did at our last memorable congress at Lucerne. It has seemed to me — and I think you will be of the same opinion — that this silent exchange of our sympathies is not enough, and that it will be a good thing to manifest them openly and frankly before all.

Since our meeting at Lucerne questions, whose real importance has been unfortunately exaggerated on both sides, have threatened, apparently, not only the good relations of France and Germany, but also the tranquillity of Europe. Manifestations of the most unequivocal character have, it is true, in the most diverse places, made clear the pronounced purpose of the populations to resist the misleading and dangerous incitements of the press, and the Pomeranian grenadiers and the French Pioupious alike have come to think that Morocco is not worth their bones.

The governments, in their turn, in agreeing to meet in a conference, have shown their repugnance to meeting on another field, and everything gives reason to believe that from the discussions going on at Algeciras there will soon come, if not a solution absolutely satisfactory (the interior condition of the Moroccan regions would probably not permit this), at least one of those arrangements which, according to the saying of Franklin, however imperfect they may be, are always more valuable than the best lawsuits.

Nevertheless, my dear and honored colleague, not all solicitude, I will not say fear, has yet disappeared, and it has not become useless to continue to speak, in all countries and in all languages, in France and Germany especially, of wisdom and mutual goodwill. We have not, so far as we are concerned, ceased to do so from the first day, not allowing ourselves to be stopped by the

insinuations and calumnies which have not been spared us. You have done so, and are doing so, you and your friends, on your side, and we cannot sufficiently thank you for it. We ask you, at this solemn and perhaps decisive hour, to do so, with us, still more energetically and more openly, and not to be afraid to declare once more, while extending us fraternally and loyally your hand across our frontiers, that, in spite of cruel memories and old mutual resentments, the time for bitterness and for conflicts of violence between us has entirely past. France and Germany, like the other nations, returning from their errors and understanding better their interests and their duties, have no longer to rival each other except in scientific and industrial effort, in order to grow together, by mutual helpfulness, in well being and knowledge. May we, by our unanimous 22d of February Manifestation, succeed finally and definitely in making them understand this.

Accept, in this hope, dear and honored colleague, the assurance of my sentiments of gratitude and of affectionate remembrance.

FREDERIC PASSY,
Member of the Institute of France, etc.

The Twenty-second of February at Paris.

The 22d of February was observed as usual again this year as an occasion for a joint peace manifestation by a large number of the peace societies of Europe. The various meetings adopted identical or similar resolutions, the general spirit of which may be gathered from the following, which were voted with enthusiasm at the peace banquet held in Paris and presided over by Dr. Charles Richet, of the Medical Faculty of the Sorbonne:

"The French peace workers, met in Paris the 22d of February, 1906, declare it to be their purpose to coöperate with all their power in the defense of the country;

"They recognize and proclaim unanimously that the survival of war constitutes the most dangerous of menaces to the security of their country as of every other country;

"That the first measure of defense to be taken by the patriots of all countries is the universal condemnation of war and its entire destruction;

"That this destruction will be the consequence of the organization of a general international federation which will assure to the peoples justice and the concerted management of their common interests;

"That this organization depends only on the will of the peoples, and that the calling of the second Hague Conference furnishes the people a fitting occasion for the manifestation of their will;

"The French peace workers therefore send to the peace workers of all countries, who at this hour are bearing their testimony against war, their fraternal salutation and the expression of their solidarity with them;

"They invite the French electors to give their votes to none but the declared adversaries of war;

"They respectfully pray the government of the Republic to hasten as much as possible the definite organi-

zation of peace through the approaching meeting of the second Hague Conference, assuring to this Conference, through serious preparation for it, the greatest possible measure of utility;

"The French peace workers met at Paris the 22d of February, 1906, address to the president and members (plenipotentiaries) of the international conference at Algeciras their respectful greetings. They beg them not to separate without having, by a formal convention, assured the pacific juridic settlement of all the differences relative to Africa which now exist or may arise between the powers represented at the conference. This will be an eminently useful accomplishment and will contribute to the strengthening of general peace. This meeting (of the French peace workers) would be profoundly grateful to the governments represented at Algeciras if they would give to their representatives the instructions and powers necessary to bring this about."

THE NEW A B C.

REV. WALTER WALSH OF DUNDEE, SCOTLAND, IN HIS CHURCH PAPER.

We are accustomed to jocose quotation of the poet's line, "Teaching the young idea how to shoot," and we know that the poet's reference is to the bud or twig which shoots gracefully and fruitfully from a tree's branch and stem. The metaphor is not unlikely to be turned to baser uses. We are confronted with a very unpoetical proposal to "teach the young idea how to shoot" from a butt, at a target, with rifle and bullet, with the ultimate object of enabling the old idea to shoot at a man. Various associations have sprung up in recent years aiming at the introduction of military drill and rifle shooting in all schools. Speaking before one of these not long ago, Earl Roberts urged that arms and ammunition should be supplied to schools by the War Office, and that rifle shooting should be made part of the educational course. The National Service League, through its president, Lord Raglan, recently published in the leading newspapers of the country a declaration that the aim of their existence was to make military drill and rifle shooting an obligatory part of the educational course in all schools, public and private, primary and secondary; that nearly all the public school head masters were favorable to the scheme; and that medals and other rewards were to be liberally distributed with the view of honoring "the best soldier" amongst the boys of the nation. These conspirators against the freedom and peace of the nation have been fortunate enough to capture the Prince of Wales, who recently said that "training of the young is the foundation of every sound system of national defense"; nay, they have even roped in King Edward, prematurely hailed "the Peacemaker," for at Bisley His Majesty said that he was "glad to think, and to trust also, that the boys in our different schools will now take up rifle shooting." The plot is revealed to the eyes of all men. It is the aim of these military monomaniacs to enforce military training and rifle shooting on every boy in this country, so that the way to compulsory military service and conscription may be made easier. We are forewarned; and if we fall into the snare it will be because we are willing to be deluded, willing to regard our boys as nothing better than so much "food for powder!"